Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on

Tuesday 18th October 2022 at 7.00pm

# Present:

Cllr P Sharkey, Cllr G Dixon, Cllr B Wyatt-Millington.

# In attendance:

Deputy Town Clerk, Bracken Hall Countryside Centre Manager, John Turner and Dave McDougall

# ENV2223/28 Chairs Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the order of items will be amended slightly in order to allow those in attendance to give their reports first.

The Chair also wished the Warden a speedy recovery to full health and thanked him for his hard work over recent months.

**ENV2223/29 Approve Reasons for Absence**

Resolved to approve the reasons for absence of Cllr Ashton and Cllr Kean.

# ENV2223/30 Disclosure of Interest

Cllr Sharkey declared his interest as a member of Baildon Horticultural Society

# ENV2223/31 Baildon Horticultural Society

John Turner gave a brief verbal report on:

* BHS show – The show this year was a great success with record numbers.
* BHS are now working with Hoyle Court Primary School and have created a gardening club with students and parents.
* BHS currently have circa 150 plot holders across both their sites and 28 on the waiting list.
* BHS intend to, at some point, have defibrillators installed at both sites. Preliminary research into the cost of the defibrillators shows circa £1000 each including batteries. BHS may well be approaching BTC regarding this in the future.

John also provided a detailed report on Avian Flu:

* Plot holders are now having to lock down November – April which has not been well received.
* Plot holders are now having to adhere to bio security (due to new regulations to which there are no exceptions).
* There are also concerns that plot holders will not adhere to these regulations and there could be enforcement issues.

John also confirmed that it had been provisionally agreed with the Clerk that the Management Agreement would now be reviewed every 5 years as opposed to yearly.

Finally, John presented a grant application for new tables for their events as the ones they have are now in disrepair and they are having to borrow from other organisations.

Cllr Dixon:

* Congratulated John and BHS on the great success of the show as well as other activities.
* Commented that defibrillators are within the remit of the Community Committee.
* Commented that any issues regarding enforcement of avian flu regulations should be referred to Environmental Health.
* Voiced support to make reviews of the Management Agreement every 5 years as opposed to yearly.
* Commented that the grant application should be referred to the Community Committee as it is a skylark application.

**Resolved to:**

* **Accept the reports from John Turner.**
* **Agree that the Management Agreement now be reviewed every 5 years.**
* **Support the grant request from BHS and recommend that the Community Committee provide these funds from the skylark budget, with the matter to be returned to the Environment Committee if not.**

# ENV2223/32 Bracken Hall Countryside Centre

The BHCC Manager provided a detailed management report as well as an updated business plan containing aims, actions and achievable goals.

The Chair thanked the BHCC manager and Deputy Clerk for the reports and asked that finalised, condensed versions be provided to him before the end of this calendar year.

**Action – Deputy Clerk and BHCC Manager to finalise the plan for Cllr Sharkey to review and sign off before the end of the calendar year.**

The Deputy Clerk and the BHCC Manager provided a report and request for funding for the commission of BHCC leaflets. The Deputy Clerk had sought that funding for the same be from somewhere other than the BHCC budget given the uncertainty of rising energy costs. After discussion it was agreed that the leaflets would come from the operating costs budget line, which can be ‘topped up’ in the future if required.

**Resolved to approve the commission of the leaflets, to be funded from the operating costs budget of BHCC.**

The BHCC manager also advised that the A1 boards have been picked up and will be passed to Bradford Council tomorrow for installation. Bradford Council have suggested this will be within the next 2 weeks.

**Resolved to ask that the BHCC manager ensures that this is done within the next 4 weeks.**

**ENV2223/33 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of the Environment Committee (held on 21st June 2022).

# ENV2223/34 Clerks Report

The Deputy Clerk will make comment on the relevant items if necessary.

# ENV2223/35 Litter Free Baildon

Dave McDougall provided a report regarding Litter Free Baildon and confirmed that they have collected circa 1600 bags of litter this year so far.

Dave also sought funding for more litter pickers and HV jackets in the region of £450.

**Resolved to:**

* **Award £500 to Litter Free Baildon this year from their budget line.**
* **Award £500 to Litter Free Baildon on a annual basis going forward, with Dave to bring an annual report to the committee once a year.**

# ENV2223/36 Baildon Green and Clean

Deferred to the next Environment Committee meeting.

# ENV2223/37 Wardens Report

Deferred to the next Environment Committee meeting.

# ENV2223/38 Playable Places

A written report was received from George Corbett regarding the Jenny Lane Play Area refurbishment. Discussions ensued regarding groups for consultation, including: Baildon Neighbourhood Watch, Community Hubs, Baildon Rugby Club, Baildon Primary Schools, PTAs and all nurseries / play groups.

**Action – Cllr Sharkey to write a piece for the newsletter inviting consultation.**

**Action – The Deputy Clerk to obtain a full list of nurseries and play groups in Baildon.**

**Action – The Deputy Clerk to thank George for his report and advise that we are inviting consultation.**

Cllr Dixon also raised that car charging points have now been installed next to Jenny Lane Play Area on the side of the Rugby Club.

**ENV2223/39 Sandals Cycle Track**

A written update was received from Paul Douglas of Sandal Primary School regarding the cycle track.

The committee thanked Paul for his report which was noted.

# ENV2223/40 Baildon Reservoir

An update from Bradford Council was received and noted.

Discussions were had regarding the large stone at the reservoir site and possible uses / location of the same.

**Action – Cllr Sharkey to visit the site and the stone.**

**Action – The stone to be included within the newsletter.**

**Resolved to agree that BTC will consult within Baildon for ideas for use of the stone and return to Bradford Council thereafter.**

**ENV2223/41 Friends of the Earth**

No Councillors are currently available to become the assigned committee member for Friends of the Earth, but all Councillors are welcome to attend.

# ENV2223/42 Grit Bins

The Deputy Clerk provided a brief update on grit bins on the Wardens behalf.

**Resolved to allocate £500 to the Warden to arrange refill of any grit bins that need it.**

# ENV2223/43 Baildon in Bloom

Deferred until the next Environment Committee Meeting.

# ENV2223/44 Kelcliffe Proposal

To be removed from the next agenda.

# ENV2223/45 Baildon Tree Planting Project

A written update was received from Richard Nottidge.

The committee thanked Richard for his report and ongoing efforts.

**Action – Cllr Dixon to continue to converse with Richard regarding cherry trees on Pennithorne**

**ENV2223/46 Footpaths**

The Deputy Clerk advised that there are 2 resolutions (ENV2122/35 and ENV2223/21) which require action.

**Action – The Deputy Clerk and the Warden to visit the area where the handrail is needed when the Warden has returned to good health.**

**Action – The Deputy Clerk to speak with Cllr Ashton and seek an update regarding the Baildon Green footpath.**

**ENV2223/47 Baildon Green Project**

Deferred to the next Environment Committee meeting.

**ENV2223/48 Committee Budget**

22/23 budget:

**Resolved to:**

* **Carry over £3000 from Green Spaces Funds into Green Spaces reserves.**

23/24 proposed budget:

**Resolved to accept the proposed 23/24 budget, save for:**

* **Grit Bins – Keep at £2000 for next year.**
* **Street Furniture / BT Boxes – Down to £1000 next year.**
* **Tree Planting – Use £1000 from Tree Planting reserves, bringing proposed 23/24 budget to £0.**

**Resolved to recommend the proposed budget of £24,500 to the Governance Committee (Estimated spend of £28,500, less £4000 used from reserves).**

**ENV2223/49 Promotional Opportunities**

Newsletter:

* A piece from Dave McDougall re Litter Free Baildon
* Cllr Dixon to write a piece on the Baildon Reservoir
* Cllr Sharkey to write a piece on Jenny Lane Playground
* The Deputy Clerk to make it known, through promotion and the newsletter, that the public toilets will be closed and locked on 31st October and 1st November this year.

**ENV2223/50 Items for Future Agenda**

Branching out Baildon Benches to countryside benches

**Action – The Warden to bring a list of relevant benches to the next meeting of the Environment**

**ENV2223/51 Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Environment Committee will take place on 14th February 2023.

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